



GOLD RUSH

SEPT. 2011 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



GO FIGURE

7000

That's how many applications NKU received for the fall semester. Ten years ago, NKU received about 3000 applications.

2200

That's how many of those applicants were accepted and enrolled at NKU this fall.

10%

That's how many of NKU's incoming freshmen have more than a single ACT score deficiency this fall. It is the most academically prepared freshman class in NKU history.

PRESIDENT VOTRUBA TO RETIRE

NKU President James Votruba capped off his annual State of the University Address by announcing he will retire following the 2011-12 academic year.

Votruba, who became NKU's fourth president in 1997, is Kentucky's longest-serving public university president and has served longer than any other NKU president.

He said the time is right for him and wife Rachel to strike a more reasonable balance between work and family life. "I think the timing is good for a transition," he said. "The university is very strongly positioned both academically and financially."

During Votruba's tenure, NKU has seen unprecedented growth. Student enrollment has climbed by 34 percent since his arrival, from 11,785 in 1997 to nearly 16,000 today. During that time, the university has added 19 bachelor's degree programs (for a total of 70), 42 master's or graduate certificate programs (for a total of 49) and two professional doctoral programs.

"My proudest accomplishment is

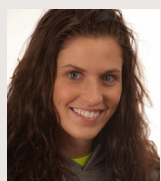


the emergence of the university as a fully mature metropolitan university," Votruba said. "Fourteen years ago we were both a community college and a four-year university. Today we are in terms of the breadth of our curriculum, the quality of our faculty and students, our physical facilities, our budget – we are in every respect a mature metropolitan university."

He said NKU's focus this year will be to prepare for the presidential transition, implement a new academic advising system, enhance many of the university's business processes, consolidate various planning platforms and make the move to Division I athletics.

PINPOINTS

ELLIOT COUNTY



KATHERINE WHITE is a sophomore business/education major from Sandy Hook, Ky. A transfer student from Midway College, Katherine graduated from East Carter High School in 2009. Katherine says what she enjoys most about attending NKU is the education she's receiving. As a business/education double major, her studies keep her pretty busy, but she also enjoys taking advantage of NKU's health center and says she's looking forward to getting involved in intramural basketball. She hopes to become a teacher after she graduates from NKU. Katherine is the daughter of Dave White and Nancy White.

COLLEGE CORNER

INFORMATICS

On October 10, NKU will celebrate the opening of a facility that has been called everything from a game-changer to the physical embodiment of a social network.

Griffin Hall, the stunning new home of the College of Informatics, has captured imaginations since its first rendering years ago.

One feature is a Digitorium that allows exploration of large-scale digital technology in a classroom,

meeting space or auditorium setting. Its digital wall allows the space to digitally connect to ideas, information and other areas throughout the building. And it opens a window to virtually anywhere in the world.

Want to learn more about Griffin Hall? Visit informatics.nku.edu or, better yet, visit NKU Oct. 10 for the grand kickoff of a semester of informatics celebration.

NKU FACULTY LEADS INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR



Last month, NKU faculty organized a professional development conference at NKU's METS Center for Corporate Learning to share best teaching practices and discuss education issues.

Dr. Alar Lipping, president of the NKU Faculty Senate, said most contemporary professional development conferences largely focus on using technology in the classroom. This one was different.

"We have a lot of good faculty hired as consultants at public schools doing cutting-edge stuff on teaching and learning," he said. "Why not use the expertise of our faculty?"

The lone guest speaker was Syracuse University Professor Vincent Tinto. All of the other presenters were members of the NKU faculty, who led five 55-minute sessions on topics such as: embracing diversity, ensuring a positive learning environment, online teaching, engaging students, facilitating classroom discussion, and creative evaluation of teaching.

Carole Beere, chair of the planning committee, said the conference was designed to give faculty members "new ideas they can implement with their students and motivate everyone to do their best work."

THE SCOREBOARD



NKU volleyball returns all six starters from last season's 20-14 squad that advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament. The Norse were picked to finish third in the Great Lakes Valley Conference East Division preseason poll.

Setter Jenna Schreiber earned both All-GLVC and All-Midwest Region accolades last year. All-GLVC standouts Shelby Buschur, Noelle Peterson and Sarah Drennen also return.

The Norse have won at least 20 matches for 18 consecutive seasons.

FACULTY FOCUS

NKU professors Dr. Jonathan Thomas and Dr. Sara Eisenhardt have been awarded a \$60,475 grant from the National Science Foundation to research how elementary teachers are prepared to present mathematics to students across Kentucky.

The two-year project has the potential to shift the paradigm of undergraduate teacher preparation to a focus on mathematics teaching that is consistently informed by children's mathematical thinking and the complexities of mathematics content.

Research will use a module developed by Thomas, Eisenhardt and others around the state based on professional literature in the areas of professional noticing and the Stages of Early Arithmetic Learning (SEAL). More at www.kentuckymathematics.org.

BRIEFS

CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW A 2011 'BEST VALUE'

The NKU Chase College of Law has again been honored as a "Best Value" law school of 2011 by the *National Jurist*.

Chase is one of just 60 law schools nationwide to receive the honor, which uses a two-year average for both bar passage rate and student employment percentages. It also considers in-state tuition and average student debt in compiling the list of the nation's best values in legal education.

"We're proud the *National Jurist* recognizes what a tremendous value Chase offers students," said NKU President James Votruba. MORE: tinyurl.com/ChaseValue

TWELFTH ANNUAL ALUMNI LECTURE

Robert Gibbs, former press secretary for President Barack Obama, and Dana Perino, press secretary for George W. Bush, will highlight the twelfth annual NKU Alumni Association and Fidelity Investments Alumni Lecture Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

"Gibbs and Perino are intelligent and highly entertaining speakers who've had a front seat to some of our nation's most historic moments," said John Lucas, chair of the organizing committee. "With their sharp wit and deep insights...we're in for a real treat." MORE: alumni.nku.edu

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD CHAMPIONS

An NKU Odyssey of the Mind team has brought home a world championship. The international educational program provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college.

"The founder of Odyssey of the Mind came up to us personally at the awards reception and told us that he thinks that it was the first time that any team in Kentucky had ever actually won a first-place title in the world finals competition," said Joseph Fons, a communication studies major. "That's pretty cool for NKU."

MORE: www.odysseyofthemind.com

SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE CLIMBING

With admission standards in place and a strong focus on student success, NKU has seen great progress in its six-year graduation rate in recent years.

In fact, President James Votruba reported during the 2011 Fall Convocation that in just the past two years, NKU's six-year graduation rate has increased nearly five percent. "Rarely does a campus make such progress in such a short period of time," he said, "and we expect these numbers to continue to increase in the coming years."

MORE: tinyurl.com/2011Convo

ALUMNI NEWS

Give her a little time and clinical psychologist Dr. Liza Siegel ('84) can give you a pretty good idea how well you'd fare on *Survivor*. Or *The Apprentice*. Or your job or in a committed relationship. As a consulting psychologist for such television shows, she is one of the foremost experts in predicting individual personality and behavior and provides onsite support for eliminated contestants. "It's been exactly 10 years from when I started working in Kenya on my first season of *Survivor*," Siegel says. "What you are trying to do is make sure that it's a healthy, safe experience for a person who is going on the show."

Recently, Siegel coauthored *Therapeutic Feedback* with the MMPI-2, a book geared toward psychology students and professionals about interpreting the widely used MMPI-2 personality assessment tests.

